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Senate bidding taskforce wraps up hearings after listening to company officials aiding with real estate

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, said the bidding taskforce that he chairs will begin work on recommendations regarding the state’s bidding process.

The taskforce heard from Hall of Fame NFL quarterback Roger Staubach on Tuesday and other leaders of the Staubach Co. about what that company is doing to advise the state about its property and lease holdings. Earlier, the taskforce heard from the directors of the departments of transportation, management and budget, and others.

“We’ve learned a lot from state officials about how state government manages its properties and leases,” Kuipers said. “Now we’ll use that to form recommendations to further ensure taxpayers are getting their money’s worth.”

The five members of the bidding-process taskforce were chosen by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to review how state officials go about selling state land.

In selecting the taskforce, Sikkema cited the complications of bids for the Northville Psychiatric Hospital and the bid by Toyota for state land in Ypsilanti as reasons for the need of the taskforce. The panel looked at the types of contracts put out for bid, costs associated with bids, no-bid contracts and the effectiveness of the governor’s executive directives regarding departmental bidding.

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Note: A photo of Kuipers and Roger Staubach is available online at the Senate’s photowire, www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Kuipers/Kuipers.htm.